(d) As per the revised Government sanction, Phase-I of the Project is scheduled for completion by December 2005.

Salary of IAF pilots

3015.SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a big gap between the salary of Indian Air Force(IAF) pilots and experienced pilots in commercial airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the sanctioned strength of pilots in IAF and the present number of pilots with the IAF;

(d) whether Government have taken any measures to raise the salary and other perquisites of IAF pilots so that they are not lured by commercial airlines; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) The job profile and job requirements of the pilots in the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the pilots in commercial airlines are different and not comparable. The sanctioned strength of pilots in the IAF is 3263 and the actual strength is 2922 (as on 1-8-2005). The improvement in the job profile of the IAF pilots is a continuous phenomenon keeping in view the job specific requirements and operational necessity.

Siphoning of diesel meant for army

3016. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a truck load of diesel meant for the Army was siphoned-off and replaced with water recently;

(b) if so, the details, with details of the inquiry, if any, constituted to inquire into the matter;

(c) whether there is any mechanism in place for monitoring the quality and quantity of Army supplies, across all categories, to ensure that only appropriate type of supplies reach the Army and its personnel;